

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF PETTY  
OFFICER FERNANDO JORGE, USCG

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Fernando Jorge, age 39, of Buena Park, California and to honor his service to our country.

CPO Jorge was one of four U.S. Coast Guard crewmen aboard a MH-65C Dolphin helicopter when it crashed into Mobile Bay on February 28, 2012, during an evening training mission. The accident claimed the lives of each of the crew.

CPO Jorge, a 20-year Coast Guard veteran and rescue swimmer, was stationed at the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama at the time of the accident.

A devoted professional who dedicated his life to saving others, CPO Jorge was accustomed to the challenges of the sea. According to the Mobile Press-Register, CPO Jorge was featured on the History Channel's "Extreme Search and Rescue" program in 2004.

CPO Jorge and his fellow crewmen of CG-6535 each shared a love of service and a dedication to saving lives. The Coast Guard is a vital protector for our Nation's coastal communities. We can never thank them enough for their commitment to our country.

Mobile is a Coast Guard city and we suffer the loss of CPO Jorge as one of our own. We grieve with his family and we stand with them and the entire United States Coast Guard family.

To quote the words of the Coast Guard hymn,

Eternal Father, Lord of hosts,  
Watch o'er the men who guard our coasts.  
Protect them from the raging seas  
And give them light and life and peace.  
Grant them from Thy great throne above  
The shield and shelter of Thy love.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and a grateful Nation, I offer condolences to CPO Jorge's family and many friends. You are each in our thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO RANDY AND SHARI  
PULMAN OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2012*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Randy and Shari Pulman of San Antonio on being honored at the 2012 Congregation Agudas Achim's Annual Gala and Honors Evening.

Over the years, they have been shining examples for our community and have left an indelible mark on the well-being and development of countless San Antonians. Shari and Randy have set a high standard of leadership through their dedication to Agudas Achim Congregation and the entire community of San Antonio.

Since 1995, Mr. Pulman has served on the Agudas Achim's Board of Trustees, most recently serving as Vice President-Finance Administration and as Treasurer of Agudas

Achim's Endowment Fund Board of Directors. Mr. Pulman's civic engagement is not limited to the Agudas Achim congregation, but includes various leadership roles at Camp Young Judea, the Golden Manor Foundation, and Israel Bonds. Mrs. Pulman's active leadership within the community is evident through her involvement as Vice President of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, President of the Campus Board of Directors of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community, and President of the Barshop JCC. Mrs. Pulman was also recognized with the Jewish Federation of San Antonio's Sylvia F. and Harry Sugarman Young Leadership Award in 1998 for her efforts on their Board of Directors. Additionally, Shari and Randy Pulman both hold leadership positions within the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

During the course of just a few years, their tireless support of Israel and the work they have done for Congregation Agudas Achim have been an inspiration to all those around them and a model for generations to follow. I would again ask you to congratulate Shari and Randy Pulman on being honored at the 2012 Congregation Agudas Achim's Annual Gala and Honors evening.

HONORING THE PEOPLE OF INDI-  
ANA IN THE AFTERMATH OF  
DEADLY TORNADOES

**HON. TODD C. YOUNG**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2012*

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I've never been prouder to call southern Indiana home.

Late Friday afternoon in our part of America, a disaster brought neighbors together, turned strangers into friends, and reminded us all of what it means to be part of a community.

Over the course of several hours, fierce winds, softball-sized hail, and deadly tornadoes descended upon southern Indiana communities, leaving behind a 50-mile path of destruction from New Pekin to Chelsea and beyond.

Our people are still assessing the costs, but we know this much: at least 13 Hoosiers have died; scores have lost their homes and businesses; and citizens across the region have suffered untold damage to their personal and public property.

As hard as it is to imagine, the tragedy might have been worse were it not for the bravery, and resilience, of rank-and-file Hoosiers.

Our firemen, policemen, EMTs, and local officials deserve our thanks. Those who serve in Indiana's National Guard, our State Police, and our Department of Homeland Security stepped up, too. From the initial response through the ongoing efforts today, their service has been exemplary.

But it has been concerned citizens—so-called ordinary Americans—who have restored a measure of stability to a region pummeled by forces beyond our control.

There was the bus driver in Henryville who, in the nick of time, rushed dozens of children back to school to protect them from the approaching twister.

There were the EMTs off Interstate 65 who saw a woman thrown from her car, and saved her from being pummeled by hail by dragging a large metal sign across the road and holding it over her. They likely saved her life.

There is Stephanie Decker, a Marysville mother who lost parts of both legs but courageously saved the lives of her two children by covering them with her body as a tornado crushed their home on top of them. We are pulling for you and your family, Stephanie.

There were parents and friends and even strangers across southern Indiana who, as danger approached, took a moment to extend a hand to others, and said, "Come inside, we'll make room."

After the storms left their mark, Hoosiers immediately turned to accounting for loved ones and comforting neighbors.

The damage was, and is, severe. One tornado—by some accounts a half-mile wide—carved a clear path through southern Indiana, ripping trees out of the earth, hurling automobiles and combines long distances, severing power lines, and decimating countless homes and businesses.

Here again, Hoosiers did not sit around and wait for others to help us out. We got to work.

Over the weekend, I spent time surveying the damage and meeting with those who lost the most. Everywhere I visited, I met citizens wearing boots and work gloves who were busily beginning to sort through piles of rubble. I met others who had fired up their chainsaws and were clearing debris from roadways. I saw clusters of cars and pick-up trucks parked outside homes that were hit hardest.

In the aftermath of such a tragedy, one would be forgiven for asking, "Why me?" But I never heard it.

Instead, time and again I heard Hoosiers sympathize with those who lost more than they. And more than one person told me that, in the end, stuff isn't all that important—it's people that are important. And I heard sincere, caring people ask their neighbors, "How can I help?"

At one stop, I met a young couple from Jeffersonville—only 15 miles away—who offered me a drink of water. Their city didn't suffer much damage, so they loaded up their cars with bottled water and granola bars, looking for others who needed a hand.

In Henryville, a pizza shop was mostly destroyed, except for the freezer. The couple who owned it, rather than worrying about the loss of their business, asked officials how they could donate food from the freezer to those who needed it most.

In Marysville, the local Christian Church remains intact, but little else. Pastor Bob Priest told me their decades-old building is no longer structurally sound, but the congregation has never been stronger. As congregants were busy making repairs, I noticed the stained glass window above the church doorway was undamaged. It reads, "In Memory of the Willing Workers."

The local Red Cross chapter opened an overnight shelter, but in the first weekend no one checked in. Instead, friends shared their homes; churches opened their doors . . . everyone, it seems, could count on someone.

For those of us who have seen the scale and scope of destruction up close, we know the path back will not be easy. But we will fix all that Mother Nature broke.

Government at all levels will, and must, be there to help—from local authorities, to the